Import of Liquid Nitrogen Plant by Institute of Armament Technology

1433. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a liquid Nitrogen plant imported by the Institute of Armament Technology, Pune at a cost of Rs. 8.21 lakhs was recalled in a damaged condition, if so, what was the nature and extent of the damage;

(b) when and who repaired the damaged plant and at what cost;

(c) who bore the cost of the repairs;

(d) what are the reasons for delay in carrying out the repairs; and

(e) how were the requirements of the institute for liquid Nitrogen met during the period the plant remained in a damaged condition and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. The plant had been marginally damaged during the transit. The liquifier and purifier modules needed repaired;

(b) The damaged plant was repaired in June 1993, by the personnel of the Institute at a material cost of Rs. 5,000 approximately.

(c) The cost was borne by the Institute.

(d) The damage had occured during the transit which was the responsibility of the buyer. Therefore, the supplier expressed their inability to replace the modules at their cost in India. As it was not cost-effective to send the equipment to the supplier in U.K., the repair was undertaken by the scientific personnel of the Institute.

(e) Part of the proposed R&D work, for which equipment was procured, was later deferred due to resource crunch. For the balance of work, during the period when the plant remained in damaged condition, the requirement of Institute for liquid nitrogen were met through procurement from local market at a cost of Rs. 0.39 lakh.

Development of Prithvi Missile

1434. SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of development of Prithvi Missile; and

(b) by when it is likely to be delivered to the Indian Armed Forces for deployment on India's borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The Prithvi missile is presently undergoing user trials. It is likely to be inducted into Service on successful completion of these trials.

Modernisation and self-reliance in Defence

1435. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need for self-reliance and modernisation in the area of defence in view of the changed post-communist balance of power;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to see that country becomes self-reliance in matters of defence;

(c) to what extent the programme of modernisation is being implemented in the Indian defence sector; and

(d) whether Government have drawn any long-term plans for modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Government are alive to the need for achieving self-reliance in the matter of Defence Production While absolute self-sufficiently in sophisticated weapon systems is not possible, we have achieved a large measure of self-reliance through indigenous development and lidence production of important weapon systems.

(c) and (d) Modernisation of the Armed Forces is an on-going prosess which takes into account the changing theraț scenario as well as the availability of resources. Plans are prepared to take appropriate measures to ensure effective defence preparedness, to meet the assessed security threats.

It may not be possible to divulge the details of the modernisation Plans of our Armed Frces in the national security interest.

India's Defence vis-a-vis other countries

1430. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to deploy Prithvi and Agni in defence weaponary;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ballistic missiles are being developed by China, Iran North Korea, South Korea, Iraq and Brazil;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is one soldier per 212 civilians in Pakistan, for 450 civilians in China and India 3 per cent of GDP on defence; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Pakistan spends 7 per cent of GDP and India 3 per cent of GDP ondefence budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Prithvi missile is undergoing user trials. The Agni is re-entry technology demonctrator, vehicle for establishment of re-entry and related technologies. This phase of the programme has been successfully completed.

(b) China has developed a range of ballistic missibles. Govt. have seen certain reports which suggest that missile development programmes exist in these countries except for Iraq which has reportedly destroyed its missile development infrastrustructure under part 'C' of UN Security Council Resolution 687.

(c) Pakistan has 1 soldier per 187.6 citizens, China has 1 solidier per 187.6 citizens, China has 1 soldier per per 699 persons.

(d) The estimate expenditure as a percentage of GDP of Pakistan continues to be around 7 per cent as against India's defence expenditure es timated to be around 2.5 per cent during the last few years as a proportion of GDP.